Satellite Linked Lottery System by MNCs

1633. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRI RAJUBHHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments including Punjab and Himachal Pradesh had submitted proposals for inviting multinational companies for introducing satellite linked lotteries;

(b) if so, the modus operandi of such lotteries; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto and the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL DAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Misuse of Coloured Lights Overhead on Cars in Delhi

1634. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the blatant misuse of blue, red and coloured lights overhead on cars in Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the norms and guidelines laid down for use of such lights and the number and details of cases of misuse of such lights detected in Delhi during the last six months, and the comparative figures for the preceding six months; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent such misuse and the resultant disturbance to road traffic in Delhi, caused thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN 1 HE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHAMMAD MAQBAL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules, 1993 provide that no motor vehicle owner, except certain specified categories, shall allow or fix any coloured light in the front and on top of the roof other than the rear of the motor vehicle provided that this provision shall not apply to the internal lighting indicator.

A special drive was launched by Delhi Police to prosecute the violators for misuse of coloured lights which resulted in 53 cases of prosecution during first six months of 1997.

Train Dacoities in Bihar

1635. SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL: SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of "Train dacoity" incident is increasing rapidly, particularly in Bihar;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents from July, 1996 to June, 1997; and

(c) what steps have since been taken to avoid such incidents in order to make train journey more safe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Available information relating to the "incidents of train dacoity" in the country during the year 1996 & 1997 (upto March, 1997 only) is given here below:-

Year	Number of incidents
1996	132
1997	15 (upto March, 97)

The figures on 'train dacoity' in Bihar during the period from January to March, 1997 and the corresponding period of

previous year is available and the same is given herebelow:-

Period	Incidents of train dacoity
January to May, 1996	45
January to May, 1997	29

(c) Registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime in the trains is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police (GRP) which functions under the control of respective State Governments/Union Territories Administrations. It is their responsibilities to ensure security of passengers in the trains. The Central Government, however, sends advisories and provides financial assistance to the State Government to strengthen their policing infrastructure.

Desecration of the Statue of Dr. B.R. Ambcdkar in Mumbai

1636. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the act of vandalism resorted to by some mischievous elements who desecrated the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Mumbai leading to protest action by the dalits and police firing on them resulting in the loss of eleven precious lives and injuries to several; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) As per available information, on 11.7.97, at about 05.30 hours it was noticed by some people of Ramabai Ambedkar Colony located on Eastern Express Highway near Ghatkopar that the statue of Dr. Babasahe Ambedkar had been desecrated by garlanding it with a garland of Chappals. Huge crowds immediately collected in large numbers and obstructed the Eastern Express highway. Police Control Room on coming to know about the incident rushed Police Mobiles and available SRPF, Striking (Force Mobiles. Available Officers including ACP Vikhroli also reached the spot. In the mean time the mob numbering more than 4000 had become very violent and was indulging in heavy stone throwing on two police vehicles and arson. Two private luxury buses were set on fire. One gas tanker was also attempted to be set on fire but police intervened and prevented a major calamity. The violent mob could not be controlled by requests, warnings and repeated lathi charge. At least 50 rounds were reported to have been fired in which 10 persons were killed.

On July 12, police opened fire at Kurla (Mumbai) when a mob attempted to break open some shops, killing one person taking the toll in police firing in Mumbai to eleven persons. The Ministry of Home Affairs kept in touch with the Maharashtra Government to monitor the developments. A judicial Commission of Inquiry has since been appointed to enquire into the incidents. The terms of reference of the Commission of Inquiry include, among other things, whether use of force including firing was justified or otherwise. The matter has also since been discussed in the Parliament during the current session.

Assault on Journalist

1637. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Journalist assaulted" which appeared in the 'Statesman' dated the 24th June, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the incident; and

(c) what action has been taken against the guilty persons?